

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Previously Presented) A method for treating or preventing an epithelial lesion in a mammal comprising administering a fragment of hITF (human intestinal trefoil factor), wherein said fragment is selected from a group consisting of hITF₂₅₋₆₂, hITF₂₂₋₆₂, hITF₂₁₋₆₂, hITF₂₅₋₇₀, hITF₂₂₋₇₀, hITF₂₁₋₇₀, hITF₂₅₋₇₂, hITF₂₂₋₇₂, hITF₂₅₋₇₃, and hITF₂₂₋₇₃; wherein subscripts delineate the bounds of each fragment according to SEQ ID NO.: 1.

2. (Currently Amended) A method for treating or preventing an epithelial lesion in a mammal comprising administering a fragment of hITF (human intestinal trefoil factor), ~~wherein said fragment is glutamate-alanine-hITF₁₅₋₇₃ (EA-hITF₁₅₋₇₃), wherein subscripts delineate the bounds of said fragment according to~~ polypeptide having an amino acid sequence consisting of SEQ ID NO.: 17.

3-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein said fragment or polypeptide is administered as a homodimer or heterodimer.

8. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein said epithelial lesion is a lesion of the upper alimentary canal.

9. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 8, wherein said epithelial lesion is aphthous stomatitis, mucositis, gingivitis, a lesion of the esophagus, a lesion caused by gastro-esophageal reflux disease, or a lesion caused by Behcet's disease.

10. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein said epithelial lesion is a lesion of the dermis or epidermis.

11. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 10, wherein said lesion is a traumatic lesion, a burn, a pressure ulcer, eczema, contact dermatitis, psoriasis, a herpetic lesion, or acne.

12. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 10, wherein said skin lesion is caused by a bacterial, viral, or fungal infection.

13. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein said epithelial lesion is a lesion of the vaginal, cervical, or uterine epithelium.

14. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 13, wherein said skin lesion is caused by a bacterial, viral, or fungal infection.

15. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein said epithelial lesion is a lesion of the epithelium of the gastrointestinal tract.

16. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein said epithelial lesion is a lesion of the distal bowel.

17. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 16, wherein said lesion is enteritis, proctitis, or caused by Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis.

18. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein said epithelial lesion is a lesion of the respiratory epithelium.

19. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, wherein said lesion is caused by an allergic reaction, asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, or the inhalation of smoke, particulate matter, or a chemical.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein said epithelial lesion is a lesion of the corneal epithelium.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein said lesion is a superficial punctate keratitis, a corneal ulcer, keratoconjunctivitis caused by herpes or adenovirus, phlyctenular keratoconjunctivitis, a keratoconus, a conjunctiva, a keratoconjunctivitis sicca (dry eyes), an ocular inflammation, a cicatricial penhigoid, a bacterial or protozoal infection.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein said lesion is caused by antineoplastic chemotherapy or antineoplastic radiation therapy.

23-42. (Cancelled)